

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7022

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AMCONSUL BELIZE

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TAGS: PFOR, GT, MX, BH

SUBJ: MEXICAN VIEW OF GUATEMALA - BELIZE CONTROVERSY

REF: (A) GUATEMALA 2846, JUNE 3; (B) MEXICO 4889, JUNE 5;
(C) BELIZE 335, JUNE 9; (D) STATE 102622, MAY 2

1. DIFFERENCES IN REFTELS, DERIVING FROM USUAL DIFFERENCES
IN REPORTING AMONG LATIN AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS AND FROM
DIFFERENCES IN PERSPECTIVE ON THE BELIZE PROBLEM IN THE
THREE COUNTRIES, MAY REQUIRE SOME CLARIFICATION.

2. STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA BY MEXICAN
REPORTERS (PARA ONE A REF B) WERE NOT THOSE ATTRIBUTED TO
HIM BY GUATEMALAN REPORTERS (PARA 2 REF A). FULL TEXT OF
PORTION REFERRING TO BELIZE WAS AS FOLLOWS: "AUNQUE ESTE
NO HA SIDO UN TEMA EN LAS CONVERSACIONES INICIADAS HOY POR
LA MANANA CON EL SENOR PRESIDENTE DE GUATEMALA, PORQUE ES
UN ASUNTO EXCLUSIVAMENTE DE LA COMPETENCIA DE GUATEMALA Y
LA GRAN BRETANA, YO QUIERO RATIFICAR LO QUE EL GOBIERNO
DE MEXICO HA VENIDO MANIFESTANDO DURANTE MUCHOS ANOS.

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FUERA DE TODO POSIBLE SOLICITUD MEXICANA, QUE DENTRO DEL

PROPIO MEXICO SIEMPRE SE HA DISCUTIDO, PREFERIMOS SIN RESERVAS, SIN CONDICIONES, LA AMISTAD DE NUESTROS HERMANOS GUATEMALTECOS. NO INTERVENIMOS, NO HEMOS INTERVENIDO, NO INTERVENDREMOS EN LAS PLATICAS QUE TIENEN, ME SUPONGO TIENEN O TENDRAN - CON LA GRAN BRETANA Y DESEAMOS QUE LAS DEMANDAS DEL PUEBLE GUAI MALTECO SEAN ATENDIDAS, SATISFECHAS, CONFORME CON LA HISTORIA, LA RAZON Y EL DERECHO. QUEREMOS SER, AL RESPECTO, MUY RESPETUOSOS, INTEGRAMENTE RESPETUOSOS, Y QUE NO QUEDE NINGUNA RESERVA MENTAL OR MALENTENDIDO AL RESPECTO."

3. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS CERTAINLY RESPECTFUL, BUT FROM OUR VIEWPOINT MORE RESPECTFUL THAN CANDID. OBVIOUSLY HE WISHED GIVE PUBLIC IMPRESSION THAT MEXICO IS NOT INTERVENING IN TALKS BETWEEN GUATEMALA AND UK, EVEN TO THE POINT OF PRETENDING BE UNAWARE OF WHETHER TALKS GOING ON. TO SAY THAT MEXICO WILL NOT INTERVENE IN CURRENT TALKS IS NOT, OF COURSE, SAME THING AS SAYING THAT MEXICO HAS NO VIEWS ON SUBJECT OR NO CLAIM OF ITS OWN - REFERENCE TO WHICH ECHEVERRIA WAS VERY CAREFUL TO INTRODUCE.

4. EMBASSY MEXICO IS OF COURSE BETTER QUALIFIED THAN WE TO SAY WHETHER ESCHEVERRIA INTENDED (REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE ACTUALLY SAID) TO GIVE GUATEMALA GREEN LIGHT, AS HIS REMARKS ARE BEING INTERPRETED IN BELIZE(REF C), BUT IN VIEW OF SHARP MEXICAN STATEMENT IN UNGA LAST FALL AND MORE RECENT SOUNDINGS OF MEXICAN VIEWS (REF D), IT SEEMS UNLIKELY TO US THAT MEXICO WOULD ABANDON IN A PRESS CONFERENCE A POSITION TO WHICH IT HAS IN PAST ATTACHED CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE.

5. WE SHOULD ALSO MAKE CLEAR THAT GUATEMALA PRESIDENT LAUGERUD AND FONMIN MOLINA HAVE NOT RPT NOT SAID ANYTHING NEW OR UNUSUAL ON BELIZE. BOTH HAVE CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY HARSH WORDS FOR EITHER BRITISH OR BELIZEANS, AND LATTER, IN COMMENTING ON REMARKS OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO MEXICO, WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO COMMEND ATTITUDE OF BRITISH NEGOTIATORS (IF NOT THAT OF THEIR AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO). BOTH TOP GOG OFFICIALS HAVE MANY TIMES MADE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STANDARD GUATEMALAN AFFIRMATION THAT GUATEMALA WOULD HAVE TO ACT IN EVENT OF UDI BY BELIZE. IN SHORT, BASIS FOR "UNUSUAL AMOUTN OF SCARE TALK" IN BELIZE IS TO BE FOUND, AS WAS VERY CLEARLY SET FORTH IN REF C, IN INTERNAL BELIZE SITUATION RATHER THAN IN ANY NEW GUATEMALAN DEVELOPMENT.
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